CLAIMS

1. A data transfer device, having first data interface means for exchanging data with a data processing system, second data interface means for exchanging data with a user of said data transfer device, and control means for controlling data transfer between said first and second data interface means wherein said control means are configured for receiving control data from said first data interface means for selectively enabling data exchange between said first and second data interface means.

2. A data transfer device according to claim 1 wherein said control means are configured for processing data provided by said first and second data interface means in accordance with said control data.

3. A data transfer device according to claim 1 wherein said control means are configured for processing data provided by said first and second data interface in accordance with program execution data to be executed by said data processing system, wherein said program execution data being comprised by said control data.

4. A data transfer device according to claim 1 wherein said control means are configured for enabling part of said first and second data interface means for operation in an open mode.

5. A data transfer device according to claim 1 wherein said control means are configured for enabling said second data interface means for operation in a secure mode.

6. A data transfer device according to claim 1 wherein said control means are configured for enabling said second data interface means for operation in a secure mode and for executing program execution data if said data transfer device is set in a secure mode of operation.

7. A data transfer device according to claim 1, further comprising data storage means for storing authentication data, wherein said control means are configured for providing an authentication check on received control data for setting said data transfer device in either one of an open and secure mode of operation.

8. A data transfer device according to claim 1, further comprising data storage means for storing certificate data, wherein said control data comprise certificate data, and said control data means are configured for checking said certificate data of said control data with respect to certificate data stored in said data storage means, for setting said data transfer device in a secure mode of operation if said certificate data of said control data are approved and for setting said data transfer device in an open mode of operation for either one of disapproval of said certificate data and non-availability of certificate data of said control data, and for deleting said control data if said certificate data thereof are false.

9. A data transfer device according to claim 1 wherein said control means are configured for enabling part of said first and second data interface means for operation in an open mode, and wherein said control means are configured for enabling said second data interface means for operation in a secure mode, said second data interface comprises keypad means, data card reader means and display means, said control means in said open mode are configured for enabling access to said data card reader means, and said control means in said secure mode are configured for enabling access to said keypad means, data card reader means and display means.

10. A data transfer device according to claim 9 wherein said control means are configured for processing data provided by said card reader means in accordance with said control data received.

11. A data transfer device according to claim 1 wherein said control means are configured for enabling part of said first and second data interface means for operation in an

open mode, and wherein said control means are configured for enabling said second data interface means for operation in a secure mode, wherein said second data interface comprises Input/Output (I/O) means for data exchange with at least one peripheral device to be connected to said I/O means, and wherein said control means in said secure mode are configured for enabling access to said I/O means by said at least one peripheral device.

12. A data transfer device according to claim 11 wherein said I/O means are configured for connecting at least one data communication device.

13. A data transfer device according to claim 11 wherein said I/O means are configured for connecting at least one Voice over IP (VoIP) digital telephone device.

14. A data transfer device according to any of the claims 1 wherein said control means are configured for enabling part of said first and second data interface means for operation in an open mode, and wherein said control means are configured for enabling said second data interface means for operation in a secure mode, further comprising signaling means for signaling said mode of operation of said data transfer device.

15. A data transfer device according to claim 14 wherein said signaling means comprise a Light Emitting Diode (LED), and said control means are arranged for illuminating said LED if said data transfer device is in its secure mode of operation.

16. A data transfer device according to claim 1, further comprising means for supporting encrypted data transfer via said first interface means.

17. A data transfer device according to claim 1 wherein said first data interface means comprise standardized computer data interface means, such as USB (Universal Serial Bus) interface means.

18. A transaction system, comprising a first processing device such as to be operated by an authorization entity, a second processing device such as to be operated by a user, and a data transfer device having first data interface means for exchanging data with a data processing system, second data interface means for exchanging data with a user of said data transfer device, and control means for controlling data transfer between said first and the second data means, wherein said first and second processing devices connect to a data network, said data transfer device with its first interface means connects to said second processing device, and said first and second processing devices being configured for exchanging control data from said first processing device to said data transfer device for selectively enabling said second data interface means of said data transfer device.

19. A transaction system according to claim 18 wherein said transaction involves exchange of trusted data, wherein said first processing device is configured for providing control data for setting said data transfer device in a secure mode.

20. A transaction system, according to claim 18, comprising a third processing device such as to be operated by a transaction entity, wherein said third processing device connects to said data network, and said first processing device being configured for enabling a transaction between said second and third processing devices dependent on said enabling of said second data interface means of said data transfer device.

21. A transaction system according to claim 20 wherein said transaction between said second and third processing devices involves exchange of trusted data between said first and second processing devices, wherein said first processing device is configured for providing control data for setting said data transfer device in a secure mode of operation and wherein said third processing device is configured for enabling said transaction between said second and third processing devices after said trusted data have been successfully exchanged.

22. A transaction system according to claim 20 wherein said second data interface comprises Input/Output (I/O) means for data exchange with at least one peripheral device to be connected to said I/O means, said transaction between said second and third processing devices involves exchange of trusted data between said first and second processing devices, said first processing device being configured for providing control data for setting said data transfer device in a secure mode of operation and said third processing device is configured for enabling a transaction between said I/O means and said third processing device after said trusted data have been successfully exchanged.

23. A transaction system according to claim 20 wherein said transaction entity is a telecommunication service provider.

24. A transaction system according to claim 20, comprising a plurality of first, second and third processing devices wherein said data network is a public data network, such as the Internet.

25. A first processing device configured for operating in accordance with claim 18.

26. A second processing device configured for operating in accordance with claim 18.

27. A third processing device configured for operating in accordance with claim 20.

28. A method of exchanging data with a data processing system using a data transfer device having first data interface means for exchanging data with said data processing system, second data interface means for exchanging data with a user of said data transfer device,

and control means for controlling data transfer between said first and second data interface means, said method comprising the steps of:

transferring control data from said data processing system to said data transfer device, and

selectively enabling exchange of data between said first and second data interface means.

29. A method according to claim 28 wherein an authentication check is performed by said control means on said control data for setting the data transfer device in either one of an open and secure mode of operation.

30. A method according to claim 29 wherein said control data comprise certificate data, wherein said control data being checked by said control means with respect to said certificate data, and wherein said data transfer device is set in its secure mode of operation if said certificate data of said control data are approved and said data transfer device is set in its open mode of operation for either one of disapproval of said certificate data and non-availability of certificate data of said control data, said control data being deleted if said certificate data thereof are false.

31. A method according to claim 30 wherein said data transfer device in its open mode of operation exchanges data with said second data interface means through a limited number of data input means thereof, including data card reader means, whereas the data transfer device in its secure mode of operation exchanges data with said second data interface means through a plurality of data input and output devices thereof, including keypad means, display means, card reader means, and Input/Output (I/O) means for data exchange with at least one peripheral device to be connected to said I/O means.

32. A method according to claim 28 wherein data provided by said first and second data processing means are processed in accordance with program execution data of a

program executed by said data processing system, said program execution data being comprised by said control data.

33. A method according to claim 31 wherein said I/O means are enabled and disabled under control of program execution data of a program executed by said data processing system, said program execution data being comprised by said control data.

34. A method according to claim 33 wherein said program execution data are operative in said data transfer device while a data card operatively connects to said card reader means.

35. A method according to claim 28 wherein data between said data processing system and said data transfer device are exchanged in an encrypted form.

36. A method according to claim 28 wherein control data in said data transfer device are erased after the completion of a data exchange.

37. An Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC) device comprising data exchange means and control means for selectively enabling data exchange between first and second data interface means based on control data in accordance with claim 1.

38. An ASIC device according to claim 37, further comprising at least one of said first and second data interface means.

39. An ASIC device according to claim 37, further comprising data processing means for processing data provided by said first and second data interface means in accordance with program execution data provided by said control data.

40. An ASIC device according to claim 37, further comprising data storage means, among others for storing said control data, said program execution data and authentication data.